GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5086
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2007
IMPORT OF ARECANUT FROM INDONESIA
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently customs officials have thwarted an attempt regarding import of forty containers of Arecanut from Indonesia or any other country through Cochin Port,

(b) if so, the details and reasons thereof;

(c) whether there is a restriction on import of Arecanut exclusively through one port alone;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the manner in which this consignment came to Cochin Port; and

(f) the action taken/being taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) & (b): Yes sir. 19 consignments consisting of 61 containers imported from Indonesia during March - April, 2007 through Cochin port were taken up for detailed investigation to verify as to whether the consignments were imported in violation of the port restrictions imposed by DGFT.

(c) & (d): Yes sir. Notification No. 49 (RE-2006)/2004-2009 dated 20,02.2007 issued by DGFT has imposed a restriction on import of arecanuts / betelnuts by allowing clearance only through the port of Mangalore.

(e) & (f) : Evidence gathered indicates that importers with the help of steamer agents have attempted to clear the consignments of betel nuts through Cochin Port by manipulating the date of shipment in the bills of lading to circumvent the port restrictions imposed by DGFT. Proceedings under Customs Act are in progress.